

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /067 W

----- 125393

R 250830Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 1044

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR MY JA

SUBJ: INSURGENCY NOTES: REPORTING OF A NON-EVENT

REF: (A) 75 TOKYO 17787 (DTG 150923Z DEC 75); (NOTAL); (B)

TOKYO 1474 (DTG 300949Z JAN 76) (NOTAL), (C) 75 KUALA LUMPUR A-165

1. SUMMARY. IN MID-JANUARY LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTED ALLEGED MAJOR COMMUNIST TERRORIST (CT) ATTACK WITH ROCKETS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ON MALAYSIAN SECURITY FORCE (SF) CAMP NEAR DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN NORTHERN PERAK STATE. MILITARY OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED INCIDENT HAD TAKEN PLACE, AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY CONSISTENT WITH MILITARY STATEMENT. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THIS BUT SINCE REF A SUGGESTS SOME FOREIGN OBSERVERS MAY BE DRAWING ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS NON-EVENT, FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO
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SET RECORD STRAIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN 20 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) FRONT-PAGED REPORT DATED IPOH, PERAK, OF ALLEGED ATTACK BY COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT'S) ON SECURITY FORCE (SF) CAMP NEAR TEMENGGOR DAM CONSTRUCTION SITE IN UPPER PERAK STATE JAN 16. ACCORDING NEWS ITEM, SF SUBJECTED TO TOTAL OF FOUR HOURS OF "MACHINE-GUN AND ROCKET FIRE." ON EVENING JAN 20 ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE IN KUALA LUMPUR ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT VIGOROUSLY DENYING SUCH AN EVENT HAD TAKEN PLACE, CITING SEVERAL OTHER ALLEGED FACTUAL ERRORS IN PRESS REPORTING OF RECENT INSURGENCY DEVELOPMENTS, AND URGING PRESS TO CONTACT MILITARY GARRISON REGION I INFORMATION OFFICE AT SUNGI BESI (NEAR K.L.) TO CONFIRM ANY INFORMATION REGARDING SF OPERATIONS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. MILITARY-INSPIRED ARTICLE IN JAN 21 NST INDICATED SF OCCASIONALLY FIRES ON "SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS" IN JUNGLES NEAR CONSTRUCTION SITE, AS WAS CASE IN THIS INSTANCE.

3. MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHEN ISSUING DENIAL OF INCIDENT ALSO TOOK PAINS TO ISSUE SEPARATE DETAILED REPORT OF JAN 20 ATTACK ON TWO VEHICLE SF CONVOY ON ROAD FROM GUBIER MUDA DAM IN NORTHERN KEDAH STATE, ABOUT 10 MILES FROM THAI BORDER. SIX SF PERSONNEL WOUNDED, THREE SERIOUSLY; ALL LATER EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER TO PENANG GENERAL HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT AUTHORITIES BELIEVED ABOUT 20 CT'S FROM MARXIST-LENINIST FACTION OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM/M-L) BASED IN BETONG SALIENT, THAILAND, WERE INVOLVED IN ATTACK, HAVING INFILTRATED INTO AREA SEVERAL DAYS PREVIOUSLY TO HARASS SF ELEMENTS IN REGION OF MUDA/PEDU DAM COMPLEX.

4. EMBOFF CHECKED OUT INITIAL NST REPORT OF ALLEGED JAN 16 ATTACK WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER, SINCE PRIME CONTRACTOR ON TEMENGGOR DAM PROJECT IS JAPANESE FIRM OF HAZAMI-GUMI. ONLY INCIDENT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD LEARNED OF WAS REPORT VIA A MITSUBISHI OFFICIAL (MITSUBISHI IS A SUPPLIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE PROJECT) THAT TROOPS JAN 16 HAD FIRED WARNING SHOTS IN DIRECTION OF SOME LABORERS, WHO REPEATEDLY VENTURED INTO PROHIBITED JUNGLE AREAS NEAR CONSTRUCTION SITE, TO FRIGHTEN THEM BACK "INTO BOUNDS." JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO CORROBORATE REPORT OF ATTACK.

5. COMMENT: IN FACT, OUR MOST RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SECURITY OFFICIALS AND AN EXAMINATION OF RECENT INTELLIGENCE INDICATE THAT THE OVERT SIDE OF THE

INSURGENCY PEAKED IN AUGUST-NOVEMBER AND THAT THE RESULTANT GOVERNMENT REACTION, PARTICULARLY SWEEPS BY POLICE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS KNOWN TO BE CENTERS OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY, HAVE THROWN THE CT OFF-BALANCE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO TERRORIST "SPECTACULARS" SUCH AS THE BOMBING OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENT SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CHIEF POLICE OFFICER (CPO) IN PERAK NOV 13, ALTHOUGH CONTACT CONTINUES IN THE BORDER AREA (PARA 3) AND SF CASUALTIES FROM BOOBY TRAPS AND MINES HAVE OCCURRED. OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE FAILURE OF THE CPM/CC TO CELEBRATE THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY FEB 1 OF THE MALAYAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (MPLA) WITH ANY POSTER DISPLAYS OR RED FLAG RAISINGS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, AS OFTEN HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST TO MARK SIMILAR ANNIVERSARIES. THE REPORT IN QUESTION WAS FILED BY A REPORTER WHO A RELIABLE LOCAL JOURNALIST HAS TERMED "UNRELIABLE" AND THE AFFAIR IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE PROBLEM LOCAL REPORTERS FACE BECAUSE OF THE GOM'S RESTRICTIVE INFORMATION POLICIES, PARTICULARLY REGARDING SECURITY OPERATIONS AND INCIDENTS. PRESUMABLY, ISSUANCE OF AN UNUSUALLY DETAILED OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE MUDA DAM INCIDENT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE RELEASE OF THE DENIAL OF AN ATTACK ON THE TEMENGGOR DAM SITE REFLECTS SOME AWARENESS THAT A MORE FORTHCOMING INFORMATION POLICY WOULD MINIMIZE SLOPPY REPORTING. HOWEVER, SITUATION IN PERAK IS VERY COMPLEX AND FURTHER MUDDLED BY REPORTED FRICTIONS BETWEEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCES, PARTICULARLY THE ARMY, OVER SECURITY EFFORT IN THE STATE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RESULTANT LACK OF AUTHORITATIVE GOM SPOKESMAN ON DEVELOPMENTS THERE POSES FURTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR NEWSMEN.

6. FOR EMBASSY TOKYO: YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS WITH JAPANESE.
UNDERHILL

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